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APR 08 2004

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Leblanc

For: A Pipe or the Like, A Female End Ring, and a Method of  
Manufacturing such a Pipe or the Like

Serial No.: 10/026,357

Filed: 12/21/2001

Examiner: Hewitt

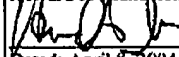
Group Art Unit: 3679

Attorney Docket No.: MART0780US

**OFFICIAL**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the  
Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Howard F. Mandelbaum

  
Dated: April 8, 2004.

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April 8, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This communication is responsive to the office action mailed  
December 8, 2003 in the above identified patent application.

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of  
claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 18 of this paper.